

**Children's Justice Act Committee**  
**Staffed by the Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services**  
**Conference Call**  
**Thursday, October 15, 2020**  
**1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Members:**

Detective Thomas Pyles, Chair  
Dr. Kerry Hannan, Vice Chair  
Michelle Chudow  
Stephanie Cooke  
Elizabeth Hall  
Anne Hoyer  
Ed Kilcullen  
Diane Shaffer  
KaeShawn Stewart  
Krista Trahan

**Staff:**

Angela Cromwell, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Kelly Gorman, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services  
Jessica Wheeler, Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services

**I. Welcome**

Detective Pyles called the meeting to order at approximately 1:33 p.m.

**II. Roll Call**

Ms. Gorman took attendance to ensure everyone on the call was marked as present.

**III. Approval of Minutes (July 2020)**

Minutes from the April 2020 meeting were provided to members. . Hannan made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Shaffer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes were approved.

**IV. Grant Updates**

Ms. Cromwell informed members that the second year continuation of funding grant awards have been processed and issued for the October 1, 2020 start date. Ms. Cromwell is in the process of receiving signed award documents from subgrantees. There is a new risk assessment

form subgrantees are required to complete. This form provides insight to the Committee and Ms. Cromwell on the amount of monitoring needed for a particular program and any technical assistance needed. All subgrantees received the same amount of funding as the previous year except Maryland Children's Alliance, whose grant amount changed due to the administration of the ChildFirst Training beginning this year.

## **V. Three-Year Assessment**

Ms. Wheeler provided an overview of the three-year assessment process to the Committee. Maryland's three-year assessment is due in May 2021. The three-year assessment is a comprehensive review of the State's child welfare work. Based on the findings of the assessment, a set of recommendations is made by the Committee.

The three-year assessment provides documentation that the Committee has:

- Reviewed and evaluated State investigative, administrative, and civil and criminal judicial handling of cases of child abuse and neglect.
- Made recommendations in each of the categories described in Section 107(e) of CJA legislation.

The three-year assessment process:

1. Review of the current system,
2. Identification and evaluation of areas needing reform, and
3. Recommendations for improvement to the current system.

The Committee will form a workgroup to spearhead the three-year assessment process. This workgroup will gather data and identify priority areas to be included in the assessment. Ms. Wheeler asked members to volunteer to serve on the workgroup and to submit their names to Kelly Gorman as soon as possible.

## **VI. Old/New Business**

Ms. Gorman provided the 2021 Children's Justice Act Committee meeting schedule to members. Due to the three-year assessment being due in May, the Committee will be meeting every other month starting in December. Meetings will be held on December 17, 2020, February 18, 2021, April 15, 2021, May 20, 2021, July 15, 2021, and October 21, 2021. Members will receive calendar invites for all meetings and notifications in advance if a meeting date or time is changed.

Ms Gorman also provided a membership update. There are currently two vacant seats on the Committee. Two individuals have been interviewed to fill one of those seats. Both names have been submitted to the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (SCCAN) for a final appointment decision.

**Next Meeting**

December 17, 2020

1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

[Google Meet Link](#)